

In the claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A process for the purification of N-carboxyanhydrides of amino acids, comprising contacting the N-carboxyanhydrides(s) of amino acids, in solution or in suspension in an aromatic hydrocarbon by ~~stirring~~ mixing, with silica added in an amount from 0.5 to 210% by weight with respect to the weight of N-carboxyanhydrides to be purified.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended) The process of Claim 1 wherein contact is achieved by mixing, in the ~~nonpolar solvent~~ aromatic hydrocarbon medium, the silica with the N-carboxyanhydrides(s), in solution or in suspension.

Claim 4 (previously presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the silica used is chosen within the category known as silica gel.

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (previously presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the purified N-carboxyanhydride(s) is/are treated with an aqueous solution of an inorganic or organic acid.

Claim 7 (previously presented) The process of Claim 6 wherein the pH of the medium is between 1 and 2.

Claim 8 (previously presented)      The process of Claim 6 wherein the treatment is carried out at a temperature of between 0°C and 15°C.

Claim 9 (previously presented)      The process of Claim 6 wherein the acid used is an inorganic acid.

Claim 10 (previously presented)      The process of Claim 9 wherein the inorganic acid is hydrochloric acid.